

ECHO

Ecological Health Organization

PO Box 0119 Hebron CT 06248
phone/fax 860-228-2693

2107 '99 MAY 18 AM 11:37

Documents Management Branch HFA-305
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher Lane
Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852


5/14/99

RE: Docket #98N-1038 Irradiation in the production, processing, and handling of food

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ecological Health Organization. **We feel strongly that the labeling of irradiated food should be continued.** The current requirement to label foods that have been irradiated poses no burden to the food industry, and it gives the consumer important information about how their food was processed. The irradiation process can change the texture, taste, storage, characteristics, and nutrients of the food. We feel that this information is important to consumers, and they have the right to be fully informed. The labeling of irradiated food should be clearly visible and understandable.

In addition we find the proposed name changes to be misleading, "cold pasteurization," and "electronic pasteurization" would be confusing to the consumer. We feel that the current labeling regulations should remain as written.

Sincerely,


Sue Riedeman
Vice-president
ECHO

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EC#0
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